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LEADING ARTICLES

THE NATION'S DUTY IN THE CONSERVATION OF HUMAN LIFE, AND ITS EFFECT UPON THE COST OF LIFE INSURANCE.*

LISTON HOMER MONTGOMERY, M. D.

CHICAGO, ILL.

"*Palman qui meruit ferat*," i. e., "Let him who has won it, bear the palm."

In October, 1909, in this historic, imperial and hospitable metropolitan city of the Southwest the writer was pleased to address another body of distinguished medical scientists upon, "The Problem of a Federal Department of Health," since which time we have been gratified to learn, that a United States Senator has championed the measure, in a bill which he introduced March 24th last (Senate bill No. 6049) for the establishment of a cabinet department of health and for other purposes.

To state that this Nation of progressive wealth is one hundred years behind the times in the matter of conservation of the health and lives of its subjects by not having said proposed department, is proved, if the statements of the distinguished Senator are true, who declares "The Nation can save 600,000 lives annually, which is of far greater importance in the conservation of their vitality and efficiency; hence, it is a problem of the first magnitude demanding intelligent attention!"

Be this quoted statement correct or otherwise, we do know that approximately 160,000 or upward of lives at the present rate of decimation which now annually perish from tuberculosis alone, I am satisfied might long years ago have been very materially lessened if the duty toward this conservation of human life by the Federal government had been fulfilled.

This member of the upper house of Congress is also quoted as having stated among other things, that "A humane nation will not fail to act, when it is known, that we could save the lives of the hundreds of thousands of people per annum who now suffer from preventable disease."

How much of an arraignment of the United States government the gentleman of Oklahoma has made by the above quotations alone is for you, gentlemen, to decide for yourselves.

On April 15th Hon. Charles E. Creager also, of Oklahoma, introduced into the House of Representatives the same bill as that introduced into the National Senate by Senator Owen.

On April 22d Hon. James S. Simmons, of New York, introduced a bill, H. R. 24,827 drawn along a somewhat similar line, and yet there are points of difference.

For instance, Mr. Simmons' bill provides for a commissioner of public health who shall be a cabinet officer. His bill also provides for a director-general and subordinates, instead of for a secretary and assistant secretaries of health.

The latter bill has other defects in my opinion, which time will not permit mention of in detail in this paper.

Indeed there are incongruities in the measures proposed by all of these gentlemen, which doubtless will be remedied by the committees to which they have been referred. However, this may be, I wish to express my thanks and appreciation publicly to United States Senator Robert L. Owen, of Oklahoma, as the first to introduce a bill in as concise manner as he has done before the dignified body, of which he is a component part. His eye-sight, intellectually and his mentality are so great, imbued, I may state, with forethought and courage to stand for that principle of inalienable equal rights of all citizens under our glorious Constitution and that

*Read before the American Medical Examiners Association at St. Louis, at its eleventh session, June 6, 1910.

banner, the supreme sovereignty of all the people of governmental affairs, and not for the welfare of the limited few comparatively speaking, as has been illustrated by the revision of the tariff upward, to increase the cost ot our living (if indeed we are permitted to live at all), and, legislation looking to the appropriation of millions of dollars for the widening, deepening and drainage of "Bubbly Creek," "Wolf Lake," etc.,to say naught of the millions of dollars that have been appropriated and expended annually for several years past for swine, the bovine and equine,bugs and beetles included.

Hence, the time has arrived when legislation in the interests and welfare of the people is demanded in this matter of public health problem. In this connection, I desire to also extend my sincere thanks personally to Messrs. Creager, Simmons and Representative Hanna, for the excellent services they have rendered by introducing in the House of Representatives their bills bearing upon this topic.

I trust I may be pardoned, however, by referring to a statement uttered by the writer four years ago while addressing this Association in the City of Boston, Mass., to the effect that if we as physicians were not on the alert in actively urging Congress in this matter the politicians would get ahead of us and do so. In this respect, it appears that Senator Owen and his colleagues have done this, and scores of medical societies and the secular press throughout the country are now publicly endorsing the principles and main features of his bill. And, I am gratified that the Journal of the American Medical Association has recently editorially approved the measure, as have also other prominent high classed medical journals, who favored a bureau of public health heretofore.

To my mind, the problem of the Nation's duty looking to the conservation of human life, or toward the subject of a National department of health, with a medical scientist in charge of this proposed new portfolio, has for twenty-five years past, most forcibly appealed itself.

I cannot understand why this topic has not merited the hearty united approval of popular intelligence everywhere during these many years the matter has been under consideration whether, in, or out, of the medical profession.

Senator Owen, however, in his bill does not specify or state that a physician shall be appointed as a cabinet official. In this respect his bill is ambiguous or evasive. He must be more specific in that particular. To illustrate this point (by way of digression for a moment). In my city some years ago, while I was associated with the department of health, we had the ludicrous spectacle of a mayor appointing a political friend—a layman—to the importnat office of commissioner of health of the second commercial city, as well as the second in population of the United States. Due to the very fact, which Senator Owen has omitted to mention in his bill, viz.: that a physician shall be appointd as the Nation's health officer, or appointed secretary of said department, call him what you will. Just as the Chicago ordinance reads, which has never been repealed, that the mayor shall appoint a commissioner of health, etc., but the ordinance does not specify that said commissioner of health shall be a physician.

Hence, this mayor in question construed the ordinance according to his way of thinking, that he had the appointing power to select any person he desired to choose for the office. A few resignations followed this appointment, not one of which was a medical man, save that of the speaker now addressing you.

But to return to the topic of this paper, and the subject of this fearful waste of American life that is permitted in our country sensational or incredible as the above figures may appear, it is a conservative statement. For, as I have computed it, and any of you may do the same—the number approximately who die annually from preventable diseases is 630,720, which may be verified in the last report of the National Conservative Commission.

That this number of lives are needlessly destroyed annually is at the rate of 1728 per day, or 72 every hour. And, contrary to the statistics, if they mean anything, or views advanced, that the period of longevity is extending during the past few years, my belief is (not as a pessimist) every year this sacrifice of human life will necessarily increase; due in a large measure to the culpability of the government by not having a supervising efficient medical health official as a cabinet secretary of a well organized National department of health. Can this powerful argument be successfully refuted or contradicted? Is it not worth while thinking about? Or, shall we permit ourselves to be continually ignored in a dilettante manner in the validity of a law, as the founders of the Constitution provided for us?

Heretofore when we have discussed this topic with members of our august National body—the United States Senate, or with

our representatives in Congress probably as individuals, they will inform you they heartily favor such department, and in the same breath, they will state, "already there are enough members, or sufficient representation in the cabinet," which to my view of thinking, conciliatory as it may appear, is tantamount to saying, "Oh well we have to die anyway to make room for others."

On the other hand, if such a conservative view by our National legislators upon this fundmaental topic is continually cast back at us, then this destruction of human resource, when it can be lessened, is race criminality, which is more serious than that of race suicide, and this culpability and responsibility should rest in the city of Washington.

When your representative tells you, "the President's official family is large enough, or words to this effect, we might reply something like the following: Heretofore when a cabinet position has been created, a general improvement has resulted in the affairs of the Nation. Hence this threadbare statement or suggestion "does not hold good," and is not argumentative nor borne out by facts. I contend on the contrary. Among other reasons, that conservation of human life is a far greater vital necessity, a greater civic and humanitarian duty, and a greater physical asset I may add, than many things which have been enacted by Congress during the past decade which do not inure to the welfare of mankind generally.

Should not physicians views, those of men of intelligence, be listened to in this regard, on the same principle as the views of the learned ecclesiastic, the astronomer and others who receive respectful attention; or those of the careful business man who looks to the conservation of his energies and resources to see that the accounts of his ledger are not upon the wrong side? And if so, how speedily he will endeavor to rectify and readjust matters by eliminating some antiquated or obsolete method he had been pursuing or following?

It is not idle experimentation, fanciful legislation, nor speculative theories that we are advising. Neither is it an altruistic measure beyond reason, that we are advocating in this essay.

Among the many abuses which our beloved paternal government should regulate for the conservation of health and welfare of the people are the elimination of the innumerable hordes of quacks and charlatans who are located mostly in the larger municipalities of our country, which is not only a menace to public health and morality, but a blot upon popular intelligenc and our profession.

Various medical colleges, those of optometry, a few osteopathic, and certain pharmaceutical schools, some hospitals and many mid-wives also, should have a limit put upon them.

The abuse and imposition of the cold storage system, where animal foodstuffs and others are kept until they become ancient to enrich some trust and to corner the market at the expense and hazard of our physicial health, for, is this not tantamount to the pure food and drugs act which was enacted a few years ago.

Fortunately the public, and our profession everywhere is awaking to the importance of this matter, and those who have opposed it, or will longer do this, do so for a selfish purpose, which a true physician has a higher aim in life to perform.

There is nothing drastic nor revolutionary about the matter. It is analogous to or simmered down to that good old maxim, "An ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure." So that well may we inquire, what should our attitude be toward these men who are oblivious to our opinion? Should they not forfeit our heretofore respect and regard by their opposing a principle we hope to formulate and now propose to have legislation upon that which will lessen the mortality of our race, on the theory and principle, that each day brings forth some new discovery in medicine as alleviative or curative in character when properly administered. We should concentrate our energies by entering upon a propaganda or crusade aimed at our representatives, to arouse them of their inertia in this mater, that argument or excuses offered by them can no longer be accepted by us.

As the technique and details of this project is not the province of this paper, this phase of the subject is omitted.

I am not posing as a prophet, nor are my views that of a pessimist, even though the tenor of this address may in part be construed as such. On the contrary, I have been very optimistic during the past twenty-five years that this department will become a reality at some future time. And, judging by the way things are shaping themselves now, it is equivalent to "coming events cast their shadows before." It is a humane scientific problem, and scientific medicine need fear no impeachment. It is an educational inspiration on a more magnificent scale; yet on the same theory that there is necessity for a higher preliminary education required of

those who matriculate at our medical colleges and universities who, after the prescribed course, expect to receive their diploma.

And this is on the par and the presumption that our patients require more from us as physicians, such as, a laboratory diagnosis, the microscope, the X-ray, and a more elaborately equipped office in every respect than heretofore was expected of us.

This proposed department for the conservation of human life and providing for a medical scientist at its head, should be made a law before Congress adjourns its present session.

If certain representatives do not entertain our view, that conservation of human life and preservation of health of all mankind is of paramount importance, then such pseudo-political microbes should be relegated to private life and politically ostracised, where they can no longer misrepresent us with suitable epigrams to accompany them.

The economic question of this life saving problem is so great: The mortuary statistics as computed by experienced actuaries of the several life insurance companies of our country is of such fundamental importance as to overthrow all the sophistry and logic, and I shall add, the wiles, and duplicity of many politicians in our legislative halls when they return to their confiding constituency and try to explain their sincerity and humane ideas why they voted against legislative action probo no publico.

If preventable diseases are conquered as vital statistics and clinical observation have shown that which has been demonstrated many times, is this not equivalent to the economic problem of conservation of human life? And if so, along this line of reasoning, life insurance premiums should become correspondingly less in future.

It may not be amiss to state, that, at the end of the present century, this sublime republic will contain approximately between one hundred and fifty million and two hundred million souls, providing there is sufficient room and the present undeveloped area of agricultural districts are made tillable for this vast number in population to grow or thrive, irrespective of certain cults and the Malthusian theory. That being the case at the present rate of strenuous life, of high financiering, heresy in other matters, etc., insanity and cognate disorders, the degenerate and undesirable classes will increase. But, in my judgment, this department will be the means of preventing much of these physical wrecks through diligent and careful inquiry in suspected cases before the preconnubial state has been agreed to. And thus be the means to further conserve life and health.

In this connection also, the dairies and abattoirs throughout this country should be under the surveillance of this department.

As our congressmen are the fiduciary trustees of the people we insist they must serve the great American populace with fidelity and justice (Fides et Jusitia).

While we all repose a glad confidence in many courageous, able and honest United States senators and representatives, yet some of them will argue that "States rights" are being interfered with. To which I would reply, there will be enacted an adequate prudent standard law, or laws, whereby every state and territory will heartily co-operate. The same as each state in succession adopted the Constitution of the United States, which was framed by statesmen of matchless ability.

Then, too, is not the enactment of the Pure Food Law an example of general conformity to a Federal statute?

I desire to quote a sentence contained in a former address of mine pertaining to this subject, namely, 'The physician must be an ideal typical medical scientist to have charge of this new portfolio, and he must be endowed with good executive ability as well.' To which statement, a gentleman of the P. H. and M. H. S. in the discussion that followed spoke rather deprecatingly—I will say by stating, "He knew of but one man endowed with the scientific attainments, diplomacy, and executive ability to fill, this position." To this remark I wish to take exception. I think if the selection was left to us, a hundred or a thousand gentlemen could be selected from the medical profession who are admirably qualified or fitted for this post of honor.

Three years ago at the Atlantic session, this association passed resolutions favoring this measure at the instance of the writer.

For one, I trust our worthy president may see fit to appoint a committee of five, or three, to formulate and present another suitable preamble and resolutions endorsing this project before this body adjourns.

In this beautiful city of St. Louis, the best municipal sanitary measures may be adopted and accepted, which would afford but little protection to the adjacent state of Illinois, much less so to other states remotely situated.

At the sixth annual session of the National Association for the Study and Prevention of Tuberculosis, held in the City of

Washington in the month of April, resolutions were adopted favoring a public health department similar to (other) Federal departments. But ambiguous whether said department shall be in charge of a physician, just as numerous other influential bodies have resoluted in favor of a bureau of public health, or a department without providing for a medical man as secretary who shall be a cabinet official.

Many reasons might be stated, why we should have a great National health organization—one splendid co-ordinate, coherent department for the dissemination of literature and otherwise to conserve the health and lives of the people, and not a bureau of health, as has been too frequently suggested heretofore, to "gloss over" the situation. For said bureau would not carry with it a cabinet official, as the writer one year ago stated to our present chief executive of the United States, and upon which topic I have since written to President Taft.

If it is true that there are perhaps today approximately three million people in this country prostrate, or ill from preventable disease, then, we beseech, implore, yes demand, that governmental legislation looking to conservation of public health and human life be expeditiously enacted. So, that the question again arises, shall we be permitted to risk human life a few years longer before congress shall act? If so, as above stated, it will be well to keep our eyes upon those who have deliberately opposed a department of health, no difference who the individual is, lest he have a symptom of disease or worse.

Again, I reiterate, it is not too much to say, this benevolent National government ought to have done this many years ago without being told to do so.

As an example of baneful or pernicious dilly-dally procrastinating tactics is being done at the present time through the graciousness of the Secretary of the War department, in permitting Chicago drinking water to be contaminated by imminent danger of not permitting a connecting link and drainage between the Calumet river and our great drainage canal, and thus menacing the health and lives of 500,000 of Chicago's population.

Doubtless similar conditions exist, or have existed elsewhere. As secretaries of war are not medical scientists, hence various bureaus at present under that department, as instanced in the illustration just cited regarding the pollution of Calumet river (and other rivers) should be transferred to this proposed new department.

In this category I will include also the surgical bureau of the War department, and the surgical bureau of the Navy department for a similar reason, namely, that the secretary of this latter department is not a medical scientist.

Our National soldiers homes in which there is great need of reform in supplying more wholesome food and medicines to the old veterans, my loved comrades, most of whom are invalids in those institutions should be under the protecting humane influence of this new department. For a like reason also, namely, that the Secretary of Argiculture is not a biologist, pathologist, or chemist, I see no incongruity in placing at least the medical and chemical bureaus of that department directly in this new department. Hence, those bureaus should be transferred.

The same suggestion applies regarding the Secretary of the Treasury, wherein the bureau of P. H. and M. H. S. is a subordinate part, should be transferred.

And, as a portion of this essay has reference to certain life insurance features, of which the writer has not dwelt much upon, nevertheless the subject includes directly the morbidity, or mortality of life insurance policy-holders, and withal is a subject of vital importance to the companies, I favor transferring the "bureau of vital statistics from the department of the Interior to the National department of Public Health. From the department of the Interior also, should be transferred the proceedings of the many boards of United States pensioning examining surgeons. The number of which is gradually becoming less.

And, as recent studies of the buccal surfaces of many fish, particularly of the thyroid and salivary glands have shown tumors and a condition analogous to carcinoma, in my opinion, for this and other obvious reasons, the bureau of fisheries now under the department of commerce should properly be transferred to a department scientifically devoted more directly toward the conservation of human life of the subjects of this Nation.

If you agree with me, we must secure worthy men who are more progressive and more competent to represent the people, whether in or out of the medical profession, or in whatever chosen field we are able to direct them.

Public health and human life is a sacred matter. Hence, dilatory legislation should be converted into urgent radical reform. We know how disease is spread or conveyed through the pollution of inter-state

streams, hence our great rivers, canals, and fresh water lakes, should be under control of this department, to render their contamination less liable.

In this connection, I will venture the assertion, that there is more danger to be apprehended from the men responsible for the sweat shop evil, the unscrupulous owner of the foul tenement house, the mines, in which explosions occur for want of scientific ventilation, etc., than has heretofore been publicly promulgated. Manufactories also should be provided with the best hygienic environments. The school house, including children with phyiscal and mental defects and those unfortunate little people of indigent parents, who are born sightless or suffer from ophthalmia neonatorum, should be tenderly and properly cared for and treated by the Federal government, as well as by the State, if desired. By so doing, the government will be a great tutor in pedagogy, so to speak.

Hence, all these conditions should be under the guidance and surveillance of one central organization looking toward the conservation of the millions of human lives, even though they are yet unborn, for is it not their right by inheritance?

When it is said that not one dime has been expended by the Federal government in biologic research for the germ of whooping cough, anterior poliomyelitis, cerebrospinal meningitis, uncinariasis (hookworm), pellagra, beri-beri, etc., without caustic cynicism on my part (which the writer hereby disclaims as furtherest from his thoughts), yet, is it not pertinent to inquire, Are these innocents receiving a genuine " square deal," which we have heard so much about in the past?

While our medical journals, newspaper friends, and editorial writers have done much in their crusade, or war, upon tuberculosis, let this, esprit de corps, be unanimous from this time on in future in our profession toward favoring this department of health problem.

And, as I understand it, it is also within the purview of Congress to enact a general law for the electrification of railroad locomotives, for steamships and various industries and others who use bituminous coal within the corporate limits of large municipalities. This will also materially lessen tuberculosis and otherwise prove effectual in mitigating the evil of the smoke nuisance, and thereby help to minimize the physicial hazard of public health.

And as we welcome our Anglo-Saxon brothers, sisters and cousins from foreign shores, whenever necessary however, governmental inspection of a certain percentage of them should be effectively done under the parental benign influence of this department, which would include also fumigation and otherwise care of their personal effects, the United States mails included.

Regarding the beneficent effect said department, which is tantamount to the title of this paper, hastily and crudely outlined, will have in lessening the premium or cost of life insurance. It seems to me this will be the logical outcome and goes without much argument to oppose it.

Statistics and clinical observations showing a gradual diminution in the death rate would amply verify this as time goes on.

This economic or broadened conservation human life saving problem is of such paramount importance that a priori, it would be a rational outcome, for immunity to disease would gradually and necessarily increase.

Cachexia or defective nutrition would lessen or decrease, and optimistic as I am, such constitutional diseases as syphilis (the great dark plague), tuberculosis, cancer, and all that which accompanies these mercilessly tortured individuals, leprosy, and other maladies where a malignant or hereditary tendency may be present will in future cease to exist. All of which will result in the evolution of the human race. In other words, the resistent cell of the human organism would correspondingly be increased.

Let us all be inspired with hope, therefore, that the time is coming within the near future, when there will be created this separate independent department, with its splendid laboratory equipment, where the manufacture of serums, antitoxins, etc., will be done, including the study and biologic research and epidemiology of all diseases.

Thereby, our National pride will be exalted as never before.

Mr. President, I desire before concluding this article to take a brief retrospective view of this question and give credit so far as I recall and my knowledge extends, to those whom honor is due. As time will not permit my doing more than this, although many names are worthy of mention. According to an editorial in the Journal of the A. M. A. issue of May 7th, 1910, page 1546, there appears this paragraph, abstracted from the minutes or proceedings of the annual session of the Association held in the city of St. Louis in 1873.

"The late Dr. A. N. Bell, of New York, offered a series of resolutions advocating the establishment of a National Sanitary Bureau with relations to the general gov-

ernment, similar to those of the Bureau of Agriculture and the Bureau of Education, as a means of promoting sanitary science and the protection of the public health." But so far as known, Dr. Bell's resolutions were never heard of afterward.

During the eighties, the National Board of Health as an association, came into existence, composed of earnest sanitariums and hygienists of national renown, but this association was short-lived.

It is with diffidence on my part, hence I trust I may be pardoned for stating in this connection.

In August, 1885, at which time the writer not being aware of the suggestion offered by Dr. Bell twelve years previously, introduced a series of resolutions before the Chicago Medical Society looking to a department of public health, with a physician in the President's cabinet. These resolutions were adopted Sept. 15th, 1885 (see minutes of Chicago Medical Society of that date).

In the year 1891, the late Professor C. G. Comegys, M.D., of Cincinnati, Ohio, at the Washington, D. C., session of the A.M.A. introduced a preamble and resolutions along the same line, namely, that of providing for a physician as secretary of public health, with another resolution that a special committee on National health legislation be appointed to follow up the measure.

In 1892 at the Detroit session, Dr. Comegys as chairman of this committee, reported the results of its labors, when the committee was enlarged.

And for several years afterwards as a member of this enlarged committee, the honor devolved upon me to report as acting chairman of this commitee our results of progress, etc. Especially do I recall submitting the committee's report at the Milwaukee session, 1893; San Francisco, 1894; Atlanta, Ga., 1896, and at the semi-centennial session held at Philadelphia, 1897.

Our report favoring a department of health with a medical scientist as a cabinet secretary, was unanimously approved and adopted by the A. M.A. each year during the nineties. Notwithstanding this committee rendered valiant service, yet, when re-organization of the association occurred, and the house of delegates was elected, this committee was overlooked or forgotten intentionally or otherwise, and a new committee appointed instead, known as the committee on National legislation and each year, or for several years, it has been proided with funds to faithfully execute its uties towards securing a bureau of public health, instead of a department, as the first or old committee had lent its efforts at doing. The kindly efforts therefore of this latter committee has been retrogressive in character. Unless within the past few months perhaps, this latter committee favors a department of public health, yet it, with its efficient chairman, is silent as to a doctor being appointed to a position in the cabinet.

However, any of our colleagues and confereres who now endorse this proposed new cabinet department with its medical scientist, even though they formerly were lukewarm or opposed it, is an adjuvant, and help toward the measure of securing legislation in guarding and protecting the domain of human life—the Nation's vitality and greatest asset.

Hence, I predict at the present annual session of the A. M. A. strong resolutions will be adopted in its favor.

Gentlemen, this subject is so vast, that no writer can do it justice in the time allotted to do so in a single paper.

I have therefore, somewhat disconnectedly, endeavored to introduce the subject under the above caption, hoping many details herein omitted will be brought out in the discussion, which I trust will follow. For this economic, humane and altruistic reasons alone, namely, the preservation and conservation of human life, to increase the general welfare and happiness of all peoples of this fair land, of a favored government, by promoting their health and longevity, and whether directly or indirectly, this will be sufficient means of lessening the cost of life insurance, remains to be verified.

This appears to be quite reasonable and probably according to the writer's views, this will actually occur. And, if so, for the more important reasons advanced, that of conserving of human resources, as well as (perhaps) this one, the sooner this great radical reform is brought about by the National Senate, the better it will be for our renowned law-makers, as they will in part at least, make restitution or atonement for their sins of omission and commission in the past, even though it will curtail the income of the physician. But this vital necessary reform will be more than compensated for and inure to us all, and for posterity to follow us, whose span of natural life in certain instances, I trust, may be extended to 120 years, and thus at an early date, benefit those who contemplate buying a life insurance policy.

NOTE.—Since the above paper was read, the author desires to quote, incredible though it seems, from the Medical

Courier, June 15, 1905. There is living a Bulgarian peasant woman, named Baba Basilika who is 126 old, and she has a son 101 years old who resides with her. These cases are said to be authentic. They are most extraordinary specimens of long lived longevity.

92 State street.

A PLEA FOR A SANE FOURTH OF JULY.*

HENRY J. SCHERCK, M. D.

ST. LOUIS.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen:

The ancient Greeks were accustomed from time to time to sacrifice to the Minotaur a certain number of the youths and maidens of old Athens. When we consider the figures and facts which I will bring to your attention this evening, you will find that even a larger sacrifice has been annually offered to a false idea of patriotism. The evil results are manifold. They can be broadly classified under three headings: injury to person, injury to property and injury to morals.

My task this evening, however, will be limited to an analysis of the dire physical results which follow the unbridled license incident to the Fourth of July celebration. Let me but call your attention to the fact that, during Fourth of July celebrations of last year, nearly 33,000 persons were reported injured, nor does this completely cover the entire list of casualties, since many cases are not reported to the police departments of the various cities. In seven years thousands of deaths have been directly caused by one factor or another incident to the Fourth of July celebrations. The vast majority of them occurring in boys between the ages of six and eighteen years. We, of St. Louis, are more particularly interested in urging and seeing to it that our own municipality adopts the wiser and enforces a saner idea in regard to the celebration of our National birthday. It is because of the experiences while serving as chief dispensary physician of the St. Louis Health Department, that the committee in charge of this meeting tonight has honored me with the invitation to appear before you. Upon my assuming the duties connected with the city dispensaries, which occurred about July, 1903, my attention was attracted with horror to the situation made so clear to me, that of 56 children injured by the toy pistol, giant firecracker, etc., 16 of these, or nearly one-third, succumbed to tetanus. These figures do not include injuries in which lock-jaw was not to be feared, so that the total for the year was surely larger. On the next Fourth of July, we had prepared ourselves, and were ready with antitoxin to immunize all of those injured and prevent this dread disease. From that time until the the completion of my term of office about 300 children were immunized and in no other single instance in which antitoxin was used did any child develop tetanus. The good results following the experience of St. Louis was commented on by the lay and medical press of various cities, the result being that a strong impetus was given to the more general use of tetanus antitoxin as a preventive measure. While the maiming of children, the loss of property, the destruction of eye-sight is a too frequent occurrence in these celebrations, there can be no question that tetanus is our greatest foe following them. A few words in regard to tetanus will undoubedly impress all within my hearing concerning the extreme virulence of its poison. Some experimental work done for me at the beginning of the work of immunizing children, showed that one-millionth of a gram of the toxin of tetanus was sufficient poison to kill a guinea pig. I doubt very much whether any one here can conceive of this minute quantity. The poison of tetanus is found in the wads of blank cartridges, and is a contamination found in the saltpetre used to manufacture gunpowder. From our knowledge of this poison we know that it cannot thrive and grow sufficiently to produce its fatal malady unless the air to the wound is completely shut off. The disease usually develops from seven to fourteen days after the infliction of the injury, and death often results from three to eight days after the development of the symptoms of tetanus shows themselves. The agony of the days and nights, the utter hopelessness of any curative measure in the vast majority of instances, the horrible torture and suffering of the little patient, with his agonizing pain and fearful convulsions produces such a vivid picture on the mind that any one whose life-work compels him to witness the tortures of the sufferer, the utter despair of the parents, will I am confident, cause him to become a continual, active, and energetic advocate of a sane and safe Fourth of July celebration.

As briefly outlined above, little hope can be give to the despairing parents for a patient suffering from tetanus, yet confident and assuring assertion can be advanced, when the immunization by the use of antitoxin is done within three days

*Read before a mass meeting held under the auspices of the St. Louis Society of City Hospital Alumni, May 28, 1910.

after the infliction of an injury, that lockjaw can be in every case prevented. Blank cartridges produce more wounds which cause death than any other form of injury. Throughout the United States during the last seven years, nearly 800 deaths have occurred from this cause alone. Next to the blank cartridge comes the boy's favorite noise-maker, the giant fire-cracker, followed in succession by toy cannon, firearms, gunpowder and various fire-works. Tetanus was reported following the Fourth of July of last year, even in the light of our present knowledge in twenty-five of our states. No matter how much we may advocate reform, no matter how much legislation may be enacted, there will be some cases to be looked after. It is therefore well, that not only physicians, but the public at large should understand the best and simplest manner for the taking care of and prevention of tetanus. The instructions given to the physicians in charge of the various local dispensaries at which places the patients are all handled were as follows:

1. To freely incise every wound.
2. Carefully and thoroughly remove from the wound every particle of foreign matter.
3. Cauterize the wound with a 25 per cent solution of carbolic acid.
4. To apply a wet pack of some antiseptic solution very loosely over the wound, being careful not to exclude too much air.
5. Inject into the wall of the abdomen the contents of a tube of immunizing antitetanic serum containing about ten cubic cc.'s or 1500 units. This treatment to be given as soon as possible after the infliction of the wound. The patient should be watched daily for at least two or three weeks afterward, in order to be absolutely certain that tetanus is not developing.

All injuries should be seen as soon as possible by competent physicians, and in the cases of those unable to pay for the services of other physicians, our city dispensaries are ready and anxious to furnish adequate surgical relief.

The object of this meeting is not so much to suggest means for the cure of accidents to those injured, though this is by no means a matter of minor importance, but it has for its object the wider and greater motive, the prevention and eradication of the cause.

The celebration as it is usually practiced by the average boy is not the result of patriotic enthusiasm, but is the expression of untrammeled liberty, and the excessive exuberation of youth. Shall we not exercise our functions as public spirited citizens to urge those in power to exterminate this annual catastrophe, this waste of life and limb. That this can be done, there can be no question. Already in Washington, our National Capital, in Baltimore; in the far away west, San Francisco, and nearer to us, the city of Cleveland, have all adopted prohibitory ordinances affecting this situation. The result following legislation was in the highest degree satisfactory. In Washington last year there were no casualties; in Cleveland only four slightly injured compared with a report of 1908, in which 12 deaths occurred and 93 were injured. In Baltimore only five were injured and no deaths, and in San Francisco there were only 12 injured. Chicago enforced restrictive measures which were not by any means as prohibitive as the laws of the four cities mentioned before, yet even these restrictive measures resulted in one-half of the usual number of accidents.

Therefore there can be no argument stronger than the presentation of these figures to urge that prohibitive laws be enacted which can and will accomplish such beneficial results. If we take away these privileges, if we legally prohibit these agents of destruction to life and limb, we must give something in return. The city of Springfield, Mass., gives us the nearest solution. The citizens have combined to offer to the youth object lessons in true patriotism, parades, floats representing historical events, picnics at which popular lectures are given, and talks in explaining the early history of our great country are given, the singing of popular patriotic airs to the accompaniment of popular music; in other words, the instilling into the young mind the details of ancient patriotism and of noble deeds. I know of no public gathering which has for its object a more practical and wiser motive than this one here assembled. If from the dark beyond, the army of shrouded babes, could uplift their voices would come a prayer and a supplication that a spirit of enlightenment might enter the hearts of all, who have it in their power to stop these evils, the result of a false idea of patrioism, and spare the lives of children and our children's children by the suppression of the present custom, which makes the celebration of July 4th a calamity and in replacing it by an enlightened and joyful celebration of our National birthday.

309 Century Building.

Dr. Parvin regarded an absolute milk diet as the very best means of treating albuminuria of pregnancy.

NEURASTHENIA — NERVOUS PROSTRATION, NERVOUS EXHAUSTION.

T. G. STEPHENS, M. D , PH. D.

SIDNEY, IOWA.

Neurasthenia is a disease in its "childhood," and in the latter part of the nineteenth century for the first time Geo. M. Beard, the American neurologist, suggested the name neurasthenia for a complexus of symptoms without an anatomical basis with muscular weakness, nervous irritability, and pain invariably present. A careless diagnostician may fail to differentiate it from its congener, hysteria; one of the oldest products of civilization and is described with great clearness by Hippocrates, and Hereodotus, and in the writings of Plato.

Certain hysterical phenomena have played a sad part in other periods in the history of sorcery which darkened the early preiod of Christianity. Hysterical patients and others who are delirious or ecstatic were accused of intercourse with the devil, and many of these unhappy creatures died at the stake as being possessed of a demon. Hysteria combined with a condition of religious exultation also played a considerable part in the convulsive epidemics of the past century. The word neurasthenia is coined from the classic Greek and in early times may have occurred now and then, and we may look for it in vain in the old text-books prior to Beard's discovery.

The general course of the disease is almost always chronic in very many instances the liability to the disease is inherited. Heredity will tell, in others it is acquired. Hypochondriacal dread usually plays the largest part in neurasthenic conditions frequently among professional men and it has many phases. Dorsal pain is almost always present, sometimes situated in the lumbar region, and at other times in the upper dorsal portion of the vertebral column. The psychical faculties may be more or less affected the intelligence is preserved, but memory and judgment are defective the nutritive function is, almost always poorly accomplished, the bowels are more or less disturbed and tympanitic, and sometimes the nervous system becomes so exalted that it reminds us of a live wire or simulating teeth set on edge from eating sour grapes. Neurasthenia is truly a functional disease and may originate in the brain and extend to the spinal cord the complexus producing cerebro-spinal or general neurasthenia and a very severe type of neurosis. The symptoms as a rule are joined to certain cerebral symptoms. The type of the disese which is chiefly described in what follows for which the names of spinal irritation or spinal neurasthenia is most in use is often then only a complication of a general neurasthenia. The causation of the disease neurasthenia is generally easy to discover. Patients of this sort are liable to almost all the neuroses severe and persistent emotional excitement menal and physical exertion improper methods of living toxic influences, such as alcohol and nicotin. Besides these there is very often a herediatry predisposition as well as a hypochondriacal which is of great etiological significance as it causes not only an abnormally increased nervousness, not only abnormal symptoms, but also an abnormal hyperesthesia to all subjective sensations. The symptoms of the morbid conditions in question usually comes creeping on like old age, gradually. The patient begins to complain of weakness and fatigue in walking, and also very often of the back and loins and sometimes in the extremities also, but if questioned closely they will admit that the pains are not of much intensity besides these the patient complains of the brain feeling as though it is too large for their cranium. Neurasthenic patients are almost always unable to stand upon one foot with the eyes closed, although they are able to do this with the eyes open. Disturbance of the bladder is usually present only in a slight degree, but easily relieved by a few doses of belladonna. We are asked by the populace and others the causation of nervous prostration, and I will give a clinical report of my three last cases of the disease, instead of obtuse theories making their histories as brief as possible. There are more males than females affected with neurasthenia.

Mrs. McA., a widow, now 68 years old; no personal knowledge of ascendants living. Two sons and two daughters during the last ten years have become victims of pulmonary tuberculosis the two daughters died within the limit of this time as well as a son. The second invalid son is and has been very feeble for years the eldest died two years ago. For years she devoted her mental and physical energy by day and night to her afflicted family, and in medical research was on a constant strain. The son after trying different climates, the last being to Arizona, the mother brought him home, and in a few days he died, and the mother collapsed and remained in a neurasthenic condition for several months. Therapeutic measures, first an occasional dose of tincture of nux vomica. She made a good recovery.

(b) A lady, an invalid from chronic bron-

chitis of long standing, was present when her husband had an altercation with an unwelcomed visitor, ejecting him from the house at the point of a knife, the patient fainted and remained prostrate for four weeks when she gradually commenced recovering from the direct asthenia. Prolonged rest and isolation of the patient with an occasionally dose of heroin for the irritating cough were sufficient to bring about happy results.

(c) Mrs. T ., age 42 years, a widow with four children. Her husband had nocturnal epilepsy fourteen years, generally occurring once a month, but occasionally the attacks were seven weeks apart. Her mind was constantly anticipating a seizure or attending him after an explosion of this kind, when he kept his bed for three or four days. At the end of this time, fourteen years, he died, leaving quite an estate for a woman to take charge of as well as four minor children. In addition to the foregoing the patient had about this time bequeathed to her a portion of another estate in a foreign country which she had to visit and assist in settling. All this time she was very much excited, her temperature sometimes normal, and at other times abnormal, not varying more than one or two degrees; frequently the surface of the body would be cold for one or two days, coldness of the hands and feet was almost constant. She was much distressed about her stomach being dilated and pains being so protean muscular weakness was quite predominant, she was compelled to take to her bed, where she remained for two months. Any noise about the house was almost unendurable. Company in the way of conversation was always agreeable, and something which is not generally the rule in these cases, motor phenomena was very conspicuous. Paraesthesia was an accompaniment, especially the vision. As a rule she slept well, but was troubled with nervous irritability and moodishness when awake. As to the clinical therapeutics of these three cases we will be as brief as possible. Moral, expectant and persuasive keeping the confidence of the patient and occasionally if the pain is severe a hypodermatic in the cerebrospinal axis; she has been improving rapidly for the last two weeks and is of the firm impression that she will make a final and permanent recovery.

Subacute osteomyelitis at the mid-shaft of the tibia is often post-typhoidal.—Amer. Jour. of Surg.

THE MEDICAL FORTNIGHTLY

Issued Tenth and Twenty-Fifth of Every Month

Edited By

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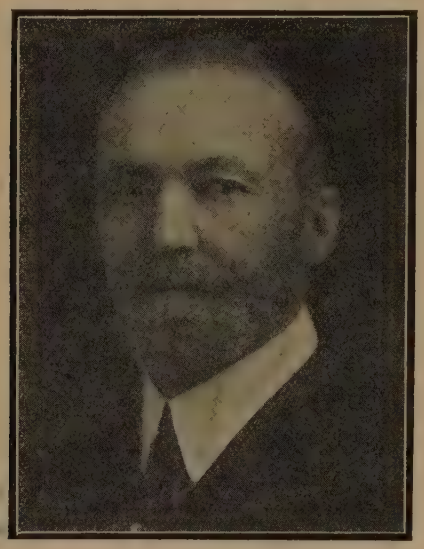
EDITORIAL

The Sixty-first Annual Meeting of the American Medical Association.

The St. Louis profession feels a pardonable degree of pride in the successful consummation of the sixty-first annual meeting of the American Medical Association; we were, individually and collectively, too busy to get to an appreciative view of its good points as we have found them in other cities, but we felt the smooth running of things and we are now getting those congratulatory expressions which would only follow a success. True the weather managed to fully justify Governor Hadley's hyphenated description in his welcoming address, it was "Italian-Siberian;" the steady downpour of real rain—wet rain—on the last two days would have dampened the ardor of a less enthusiastic and interested body. The attendance was large, about 4,000 registered, but not so large as the St. Louis profession had expected by a considerable number. We are impressed that there was no systematic effort to encourage a large attendance; the medical press seemed strangely apathetic during the weeks when they should have been talking this meeting in their every issue; this apathy we do not attribute to the journals themselves, but to a lack of enthusiasm in the source of information, which should have availed itself of every legitimate aid in advertising the meeting. The St. Louis profession feels deeply chargined and apologetic that there was one incident during the week which should not have occurred. St. Louis is a representative city in matter of morals and decency and that any entertainment should have been offered that could offend either is a fact which we profoundly regret; the misguided zeal of persons lacking in the best of good judgment must be the explanation. But one general session was held, and it

was attended by an audience which taxed the capacity of the Odean and was characterized by enthusiasm. The addresses were all of a character to awaken the patriotic interest of new members and rekindle it in the hearts of those who may have become indifferent to a part of all that our great organization stands for.



JOHN B. MURPHY, M. D.
Chicago

The work of each of the sections was excellent throughout. Some criticism was occasioned by absentees among those who had been placed on the programs on the first day, but were less evident as the meeting progressed and few of the programs lacked much of being completely presented by its close. We do not remember hearing that anything startlingly new was advanced in any section, but the papers throughout were of so studious an excellence as to cause general comment thereon.

As usual the work of the House of Delegates was the center of discussion and interest. The report of the Committee on Education and that coming from the Carnegie Foundation at the same time stirred up so much discussion that great good should result. We are quite as proud of our great university schools as could be the closest adherent, but we are not yet convinced that the time has come when medical education should, as these reports propose, be dispensed only from this source; we are honestly of the opinion that the education of the five senses is neglected in the university school, while the laboratory methods are over-accentuated. Believing this we are not able to give approval to the sum of the reports except with reservation. That the independent schools should be greatly reduced in number and their standards raised we fully agree, and when the university schools discover that something beside laboratory methods count in making the physician who is to be an inspiration in the sick room we may consent that this branch of education should be left entirely to them.

Another matter taken up by the House which attracted much attention was the inauguration of a movement toward the abolishment of the coroner system of the country. Arguments against this obsolete system have appeared in the pages of the Fortnightly. Now that the Association has taken it up we may expect accomplishment.

The Association now has a membership of 33,935, a little better than half of the eligibles, as shown by the table of membership in the various state societies.

The record of legislative activity on the part of the general association and each of the state bodies makes most interesting reading, and shows that the profession is alive as never before in every section of the country to its duties and obligations. A matter in which physicians are generally

W. G. MOORE, M. D.
St, Louis.

interested is the activity evident in an effort to stamp ophthalmia neonatorum. An exhaustive report was made by the committee on this subject. It seems exceedingly probable that the day is near when

the physician who fails to protect an infant from this disease will find himself answering the legal "why?" and that will be as it should be.

The officers elected for the ensuing year meet with such general approval as to leave no question as to the wish of the general membership in the matter. The selection of Dr. J. B. Murphy as president seems particularly fitting, for it combines a merited honor with the fact of executive fitness on the part of the candidate. Sometimes the only thought appears to have been to honor a man full of years and rich in achievement. We cannot imagine Dr. Murphy as honorary president, we believe that he will be president in fact and that every other officer and every member will appreciate the fact.

The following officers were elected:

President, John B. Murphy, Chicago.

First vice-president, E. E. Montgomery, Philadelphia.

Second vice-president, R. C. Coffey, Portland, Ore.

Third vice-president, W. G. Moore, St. Louis.

Fourth vice-president, M. L. E. Johnson, Washington.

Secretary, George H. Simmons, Chicago.

Treasurer, Frank Billings, Chicago.

Trustees—W. W. Grant, Denver; Frank J. Lutz, St. Louis; C. E. Cantrell, Greenville Texas.

The 1911 meeting is to be held in Los Angeles.

The palmy days of the exhibit hall are past, but the exhibit hall and the pathologic and historical exhibits were busy places throughout the week. While we still miss the many good fellows and their exhibits which played so important a part in the meetings of a decade and more ago we are having to reconcile ourselves to the fact. Perhaps automobiles and foods and farming lands in the South and West are the things that we are really interested in after all. Perhaps we are to discontinue the use of medicines. Out of a possible 142 exhibit spaces a dozen or less were occupied by drug manufacturers; medical books, foods, instruments and mechanical devices seemed in most unusual prominence. That the exhibit hall had to be so far from the other meeting places was to its and the member's disadvantage, it is to be hoped that Los Angeles can have things more concentrated.

The Ameriean Medical Editors' Association.

The average medical reader is but slightly interested in the movements and associations of medical editors as a body, his concern is in the material which individual editors furnish him for mental digestion rather than the processes which have led the editor to furnish it. But, we believe, so good a meeting as that of the American Medical Editors recently held in our city may be far reaching in its effects and should be of interest to the entire body of American physicians. But for the concerted action of medical editors the reorganization of the A.M.A. would never have been so promptly and successfuly effected nor would its propaganda since have been so generally and uniformly furthered but for their general and expressed approval of the purpose. Medical editors have shown themselves among the first to see the advantages of organization of the American profession, they are among the first to see defects in organization and the fact that some have voiced criticism denotes no disloyalty. Were the association of medical editors a fact to its uttermost possibility there is no medical evil which they could not successfully combat or reform that they could not accomplish, unfortunately it has not drawn to itself the greater number of editors of state journals and it fails to furnish much esprit de corps beyond that which, in a high degree, characterizes its annual gatherings. That it has failed to gain and hold the support of the organs of the association which it has been largely instrumental in making possible, and that it fails somewhat of filling its fullest mission seems to us to be due to its lack of cohesion between sessions; there is too much satisfaction with making the annual meeting a great success and letting the rest of the year take care of itself. This is not a fault of the officers, but one for which the membership itself is responsible. If there is to be a set program for the annual meeting it is high time that there be less of concern about things extraneous to our own business and a good heart-to-heart discussion of the reason for the existence of the association and a careful definition of its mission. Some editors have a bent for independent action, but a larger number like to be party to a united movement; independence is necessarily an essential to editorial utterance but a movement of importance needs a trained army who can step to time and who throw themselves unrestrainedly into the fray because each feels the companionship of others and

the courage which it imparts. The medical editors have no common cause at the present other than which is always theirs, the advancement of medical science and the bettering of conditions within the profession, but there are little clouds "no larger than a hand" which indicate possibilities for the need of concerted action in the future.

The St. Louis meeting was exceptionally excellent. The papers read were unusual in their definiteness of purpose and practical character. If we are to be content with tradition and not try to upset the settled order of things it was a wonderful meeting. Certainly there was no lack of interest and there was an abundance of good-fellowship, such fellowship as made us wish that our gatherings together might be more frequent. Dr. Young made an ideal presiding officer and Dr. MacDonald proved himself, as always, the most capable of secretaries and the guiding spirit of the occasion.

An automobile ride through the residence and other sections of the city was given the association on Sunday afternoon by Messrs. Haley and Sultan of the Peacock Chemical and the Sultan Drug companies, which was tremendously enjoyed.

The annual banquet on Monday evening was easily the most brilliant affair of the kind that the association has had. The menu was not burdensome, but was sufficient and well served. The guests present included Surgeon-General Walter Wyman, who has endeared himself to the association by his interest in its work and his evident pleasure in meeting with us, Col. Gorgas, the retiring president of the A. M. A. and Dr. Wm. Welch, the incoming president of that organization. During the course of the evening a silver service was presented to Dr. MacDonald by his friends in the association as a token of esteem and appreciation. The evening made a fitting close to an exceptional meeting.

The following officers were elected for the ensuing year: President, Joseph Macdonald, Jr., managing editor American Journal of Surgery, New York; first vice-president, Walter Wyman, Surgeon General, U. S. Hospital and Marine Corps, Washington, D. C.; second vice-president, Thomas L. Stedman, editor Medical Record, New York City; secretary and treasurer, John J. Taylor, editor Medical Council, Philadelphia; executive committee, Wallace C. Abbott, chairman, editor American Journal Clinical Medicine, Chicago; C. L. Stevens, Athens, Pa., editor Pennsylvania Medical Journal; A. G. Kreidler, editor Lancet-Clinic, Cincinnati. Publication committee: A. S. Burdick, Chicago; T. G. Atkinson, St. Louis; Hills Cole, New York.

ST. LOUIS ITEMS

The American Medical College Becomes Regular.—The American Medical College of this city, which has been an Eclectic institution, has just gone through a transition, and will hereafter be a regular school. Several members of the American's faculty were regulars, and it is supposed that the Eclectics are to be replaced by others of the old school. Dr. James Moores Ball is announced as dean under the new regime.

Dr. John M. Grant Shot.—The profession and community were shocked on Monday the 13th, by the report of a murderous attack on Dr. J. M. Grant of this city. Dr. Grant was shot, as he was alighting from his automobile in front of his office, by a former patient, two bullets taking effect, but neither reaching a vital organ. His assailant was apprehended and proved to be an irresponsible who will probably be speedily placed where he can do no further injury. Dr. Grant is improving nicely, according to late reports.

Medical College Criticism and Litigation.—The reports of the A.M.A. Committee on Medical Education and that of the Carnegie Foundation seem to have been rather too personal for some of the local schools. We have not seen either report, but the general impression seems to be that they were of rather forcible character. The daily press tells us that suit has been brought against President Pritchett and Drs. Flexner and Simmons as a consequence. The P. and S. is said to have instituted the suit.

The Hospital Staff Completed.—In addition to the names mentioned in our last issue the Hospital Board has selected the following to constitute the medical and surgical staff of the City Hospital:

Surgery, General—Edmund A. Babler, William Bartlett, V. P. Blair, O. H. Elbrecht, Max W. Myer, S. E. Parsons, Louis Rassieur.

General Medicine—W. Baumgarten, H. J. Cummings, W. P. Elmer, William Englebach, L. S. Luton, J. S. Myer, A. E. Taussig.

Genito-Urinary Diseases—C. E. Burford, E. C. Burnett, B. Lewis, H. J. Scherck.

Gynecologists—H. S. Crossen, A. N. Curtis, Hugo Ehrenfest.

Neurologists—C. G. Chaddock, Frank Fry, W. W. Graves, M. W. Hoge, Sidney I. Schwab.

Oculists—John Green, Jr., Clarence Loeb, F. H. Rosebrough, Ernst Saxl and L. Williamson.

Ear, Nose and Throat—H. W. Loeb, C. F. Pfingsten, W. E. Sauer, R. Ph. Scholz.

Dermatologists—M. F. Engman, William H. Mook.

Unless the plan is changed these appointments are for but four months, when it is expected an examination which will be open to all aspirants will be held at which a permanent staff will determined.

Strange to say, there are few of the gentlemen who do not feel that the mention of an examination is a reflection on their reputation for ability and erudition. It seems probable that the examination will never take place.

"The American Journal of Physiologic Therapeutics" is a new journal which has made its first appearance with the May number, under the editorship of Dr. Henry R. Harrower of Chicago. The scope of the journal includes hydrotherapy, dietetics, spondylotherapy, massage and manual movements, electrotherapy, radiotherapy, phototherapy, and vaccine and serum treatment. The editorial offices are at 72 Madison street, Chicago, Ill.

Medical Examiners Elect Officers.—The American Association of Medical Examiners elected the following officers at their St. Louis meeting: Dr. Liston H. Montgomery, Chicago, president; W. E. Grant, Louisville, Ky., W. T. Tilley, Muskogee, Okla., J. T. Priestley, Des Moines, Ia., and C. T. Cutting, Seattle, Wash., first, second, third and fourth vice-presidents; A. E. Cox, Helena, Ark., secretary; T. A. Stephens, Kansas, treasurer.

Arrested for Selling Diplomas.—Dr. James A. Egan, secretary of the Illinois State Board of Health, working in conjunction with the Federal authorities, has caused the arrest of three men who conducted the "Chicago Medical University" and the "Crescent Medical University of Chicago," on the charge of selling diplomas. The diplomas which were issued covered medicine, osteopathy, neuropathy, obstetrics, optics, nursing, pharmacy, embalming, music and painting. The head of the institution was Dr. Alexander Chittick, whose license has been revoked by the Illinois Board of Health.

MEDICAL PROGRESS

Comprising the Regular Contributions of the Fortnightly Department Staff.

GENITO-URINARY.

T A. HOPKINS, M D.

Relief of Urinary and Genital Conditions Through Surgery of the Seminal Vesicles.—Eugene Fuller of New York finds that many cases of urinary and genital disease may be cured by treatment of the seminal vesiculitis that exists (Medical Record, Oct. 30, 1909). For this purpose he employs stripping of the seminal vesicles through the walls of the rectum, by means of the carefully educated finger. He places the patient in the knee-elbow position, with the knees well spread out, when surgical interference is necessary, and makes incisions along the ischia, connected by a transverse incision. After working down deeply into this location, he is able to reach the vesicles, which are opened, cleaned out, and drainage used until healing has occurred. The patient is under treatment for about three weerks, two of them in bed. No tissues are removed, simply drainage applied, and there is no danger to the sexual functions, but they are rather preserved than injured by the procedure. The author has done this operation 126 times without a death. In all but ten cases the cure was complete. The clinical symptoms of vesiculitis are many; the principal ones are urinary, sexual and neurasthenic. Rheumatic symptoms are also important, and indicate systemic absorption of poisons from the localized inflammation. The operation generally cures these rheumatic symptoms promptly. Nervous and mental symptoms arise in cases where an improper diagnosis has been made and no relief to the condition obtained. They are in the nature of neurasthenia, mental confusion, lack of initiative, and melancholy. This condition may occur in young boys as a result of excessive intercourse too early in puberty.

Bladder Neoplasms.—A new method of treating bladder neoplasms by the high frequency plan is described by Edwin Beer, New York (Journal A. M. A., May 28), which, he thinks, will be effective in the treatment of intravesical growths. He employs the Ogidin current derived from a Wappler machine, placing the rheostat vertically, so that one-half the resistance is thrown into the circuit. The spark gap in the muffler was approximately from 1-10 to 1-8 inch. A Nitze double catheter cys-

toscope was used. In one catheter tunnel he places the electrode introducing it just as one introduces a catheter, while to the other catheter tunnel he attaches a tube for irrigation. The electrode is a simple six-ply cable of copper wire, thoroughly insulated with rubber and cut off squarely at the vesical end. It measured No.6 French. The applications were made directly to the growth, the electrode being pushed a short distance in among the villi under the guidance of the eye and the current turned on for from 15 to 30 seconds at various points. The bladder was distended with distilled water. The immediate effects are striking, no spark is seen even with the full current without any resistance. Gas is freely generated and bubles out of the growth and if the point of application is superficial the blanching of the tissues is seen, and at the point where the electrode rested the tissues are blackened. Often as the electrode is withdrawn the tumor comes away firmly baked to its point. Bleeding rarely follows and is readily checked by a reapplication of the current. The rubber melts away from the heat at the end of the electrode which has to be squarely cut off from time to time. He credits the well-marked necrosis to the heat, though other factors, ionization, electrolysis, probably contribute, how much he cannot yet say. The treatment caused no more discomfort than an ordinary cystoscopy. The bladder mucosa was but little affected by the application though some congestion and trigonitis developed in the vicinity of the growth. While he has only employed this method in two cases, both large papillary growths, his experience has been so satisfactory that he recommends it. It suggests the usefulness of these currents in many other conditions, both in the bladder and in other parts, for example, tuberculous ulcers of the bladder, prostatic hypertrophy, growths in the urethra, etc. At a future date he promises to report these two cases in full, which is hardly necessary in this preliminary report.

Renal Senescence.—Joseph Walsh, Philadelphia (Jour. A. M. A., June 4,) calls attention to an observation made by him of a thickening of the interstitial tissues at the apex or capillary end of the kidney as age advances. He has found this so uniformly that he says the age of the individual can be estimated by the amount of interstitial tissue found. The following precautions should be taken however: "First, the apex of the pyramid should be in view. Sometimes a cross-section of the kidney is made in such a way that we see a long stretch of pyramid but instead of one we are looking at two pyramids, end to end; in other words, a specimen may be cut across two pyramids in such a way that the apical portion of one pyramid will run into the apical portion of the other so as to make the end of the specimen actually near second cortex though the second cortex is not in view. Second, edema must be differentiated from thickening of the interstitial tissue. Third the amount of interstitial tissue should be estimated, not from one single location, but from several fields of a two-thirds lens. Fourth, interstitial nephritis increases the amount of interstitial tissue at the apex of the pyramid and must be accounted for. Fifth, pyelonephritis and hydronephrosis obscure completely the thickening due to age.

Iodid of Potassium.—G. Dock, New Orleans (Jour. A. M. A.) reports his opinion as to this drug which he says is a striking example of the uncertainty, unrest, and dissatisfaction characterizing the therapeutics of the day. He says we have here a good example of the value of empiricism as a guide to wider knowledge as well as a refuge and comfort in time of need. First he speaks of the necessity of knowing how much of the remedy to give and says some of the ideas entertained by some members of the profession at present are an example of imperfect education as regards dosage. Any one who thinks that more than five or ten grains at a dose is dangerous in syphilis is hardly fit to judge of the qualities of the medicine. As regards the prescribing of the remedy, imperfect ideas are also entertained, some thinking that it can be given in one way, and some in another. There are other vehicles that can be conveniently used than the compound syrup of sarsaparilla. Dock has found giving the drug in a solution of a grain to a drop of water and using milk as a vehicle most satisfactory to him when used to produce a marked effect. A bad taste does not necessarily discourage patients from taking a remedy, and he speaks of the freedom of the method from gastric irritation as one of its advantages. Iodism is most frequently seen in patients who have been taking small doses such as one or two grains at a time, and in the form of inflammatory lesions of the skin and mucous membrane. Lack of cleanliness is responsible largely for the skin infections and local infections may be supposed to play an important part in the mucosa lesions. The iodin "drunk" and iodin mumps he has never observed. Ede-

ma of the glottis should be borne in mind but it is probable that in the reported cases there were other more important factors than the iodid. In rare cases iodid causes symptoms due to idiosyncrasy and it is possible that some of the cases of iodin coryza and iodin headache belong to this class. The more general symptoms credited to iodism, with nervousness, emaciation, tachycardia, etc., are not really due to iodids but to thyroid intoxication. He has used the potassium salt almost exclusively as he finds it better for the constitutional effect, but he would like to see sodium iodid tried further. He has been convinced that it has no decided advantage as regards taste and effects on the stomach are concerned. Of the special preparations on the market he does not speak with any confidence, nor does he recommend the various combinations as being of advantage. He concludes by saying: "Potassium iodid can be taken easily and safely and in adequate quantities by most patients who need it. Other preparations of iodin may prove better, but need to be tested, and recommendations based on the inferiority of potassium iodid should be looked on with suspicion."

Loss of life in the mines of the United States may be called a chronic catastrophe. According to the United States Geological Survey, 22,840 men have been killed in our coal-mines in the last seventeen years, and nearly 50,000 have been seriously injured.

Benefactors of Humanity.—The Nineteenth Century produced three men who have done more for humanity than almost all other scientists put together. Virchow discovered the cellular processes which are essential to living organisms; Pasteur discovered that germs were the cause of most of our fatal diseases, while Lord Lister made the operating table a place of refuge rather than a morgue.—Philadelphia Inquirer.

American Gastroenterological Association.—At the thirteenth annual meeting of this association, held at the Planters Hotel, St. Louis, Mo., on June 6th and 7th, the following officers were elected for the ensuing year: President, Dr. Walter B. Cannon, of Boston; first vice-president, Dr. John A. Lichty, of Pittsburgh; second vice-president, Dr. George D. Kahlo, of French Lick, Ind.; secretary and treasurer, Dr. Charles D. Aaron, of Detroit; member of council, Dr. Julius Friedenwald, of Baltimore.

MEDICAL MISCELLANY

Wood Alcohol in Liquor.—A number of arrests have been made in New York recently of liquor dealers who have been discovered selling liquor containing wood alcohol. Two prisoners were fined recently and the cases of several others were put over under the expectation that the United States government will take steps against the wholesalers who sold the liquor to the saloonkeepers.

The Woman's Medical College of Baltimore to Close.—On the evening of May 31st, the Woman's Medical College of Baltimore held its twenty-eighth and last commencement, as the doors of the institution will not be opened at the beginning of the next term. Dr. Guy L. Hunner, president of the college, in announcing this fact, stated that the cause was lack of sufficient endowment to enable the college to meet the necessary requirements. Students in the college who have not finished their course will enter the Woman's Medical College of Philadelphia.

Reorganization of the American Medical College of St. Louis.—Believing that the time for sectarinism in medicine has passed, the trustees of the American Medical College of St. Louis, at a meeting held on June 6th, 1910, unanimously decided that, in the future, the American Medical College shall be conducted as a regular college of Medicine. New officers were elected as follows: James Moores Ball, dean; J. J. Link, treasurer, and W. T. Burdick, secretary. The thirty-eighth annual session will open on September 5th, 1910, and continue for nine months.

How to Become a Neurasthenic.—Eat no breakfast. Indulge in but one meal daily; at any rate not more than two. Eat no meat. Eat freak cereals, vegetables, nuts and fruit. Masticate every morsel two hunderd and sixty-eight times—two hundred and sixty-seven times won't do. Take a cold bath every morning. Take a laxative every day whether you need it or not. Better still, a cathartic. Take enemas frequently. Be massaged daily. Read the health magazines daily. Read all the books on how to gain self-control and on psychotherapy. Concentrate the mind upon the digestion and upon all articles of diet. Upon every possible occasion discuss your imaginary troubles with your friends and coerce your wife into catering to every dietetic whim that you can formulate. Buy a lot of apparatus for indoor exercise and roll a can-

non ball around the abdomen every day along the course of the colon. Be treated by some one who uses only the static machine in his practice for all cases—one of those lads who can reduce an enlarged prostate with vacuum electrodes. If all else fails, try Christian Science.—Critic and Guide.

The Henry Phipps Institute for the Study, Prevention and Treatment of Tuberculosis.—Mr. Henry Phipps, of New York, has selected the University of Pennsylvania to carry on the work of the Phipps Institute. Mr. Phipps has already acquired ground in Philadelphia on which will be erected a hospital for this purpose. The extent of the benefaction exceeds $500,000. The report of the committee appointed to consider the future policy of the institute has been approved by Mr. Phipps and the trustees of the university. The work will be divided into three general departments, each of which will be presided over by a director. For the directorship of the laboratory, Dr. Paul Lewis, now of the Rockefeller Institute, has been selected. For directorship of the Sociological Department, Mr. Alexander M. Wilson, of the Boston Association for the Relief and Control of Tuberculosis. Dr. H. R. M. Landis has accepted the appointment as director of the Clinical Department. In addition to a board of eight directors who will be directly responsible to the trustees of the university, an Advisory Council has been created and will meet annually at the institute. The following have accepted the invitation to serve as members of this body: Dr. Samuel G. Dixon, Harrisburg, Pa.; Dr. Hermann M. Biggs, New York City; Dr. William H. Welch, Baltimore, Md.; Dr. Theobald, Smith, Boston, Mass.; Dr. Gideon Wells, Chicago, Ill.; Dr. Simon Flexner, New York City; Dr. James A. Miller, New York City; Dr. Lawrence Brown, Saranac, N. Y.; Dr. Henry Bard Favell, Chicago, Ill., and Dr. James Pratt, Boston, Mass.

Surgical Treatment of Exophthalmic Goitre.—Writing of the three procedures having considerable vogue in America at the present time in the treatment of Basedow's disease, namely, first, ligation of the thyroid vessels; second, extra capsular ligation of the poles of the thyroid gland; and third, thyroidectomy, Dr. Joseph Rilus Eastman, in Indianapolis Medical Journal for March, 1910, gives most space to the second. The operation of polar ligation as a definite procedure designed to obstruct the outflow of lymph was performed first by Dr. Martin Stamm, of Fremont, Ohio, in 1908. Briefly, it consists in ligating en masse without the capsule the two upper horns or poles of the thyroid. It is believed by Stamm and Jacobson that the toxic principle in exophthalmic goiter escapes from the gland principally through the lymphatics and it will be seen that the polar ligation contemplates the embracing in the grasp of the ligature of not only the branches of the superior thyroid vein and artery, but the lymphatics as well. In a communication to the author Dr. Jacobson outlines the technic of the operation and presents his conclusions, as follows: 1. Ligation of both poles of the thyroid gland acts first by diminishing the blood supply to the gland, and thus diminishing immediately its activity; secondly, by directly diminishing and preventing the gland secretion from entering the general circulation by way of the mainly lymphatic channels and veins which leave the thyroid body at its upper poles; and thirdly, by causing a subsequent atrophy of the gland itself. 2. The operation of "pole ligation" is much easier to perform than ligation of the thyroid vessels, and may be as effective as a partial thyroidectomy. 3. It does not disturb the blood supply of the parathyroid glands, nor endanger the recurrent laryngeal nerves. 4. Theoretically, at least, and from the simplicity of its performance, it would seem that "pole ligation" should entirely supplant the operation of simple ligation of the thyroid vessels in Basedow's disease, and in many cases the necessity of partial thyroidectomy. 5. As a preliminary operation to partial thyroidectomy for Basedow's disease it will be found of great value. 6. At the present time we are warranted in saying that "pole ligation" offers the prospect of cure in many cases, and of lasting improvement in others. 7. The operation of "pole ligation" is a safe one, and in skilled hands should have no mortality.

The Most Reliable Test for Tuberculous Kidney.—The most reliable of all the diagnostic tests are the animal inoculations. Guinea pigs are inoculated by injecting into the peritoneal cavity a specimen of the urine drawn from the right and left kidney and the mixed bladder urine. After three weeks the guinea pigs are autopsied and the presence or absence of tuberculous infection of the pig is proof positive of the condition in the human being.—Dr. Henry H. Morton.

Passing a catheter often cures post-operative abdominal pain not relieved by other means.—Amer. Jour. of Surg.

TO THE FRONT
SAINT LOUIS

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A Cosmopolitan Biweekly for the General Practitioner

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THE MONTH'S MAGAZINES

The Value of Pageants.—The "Century's" sympathy with the movement for a saner method of celebrating the Fourth of July is shown in two articles of the July issue. Percy Mackaye, in writing of "The New Fourth of July," offers suggestions for the production of patriotic pageants; and Ellis Paxson Oberholtzer, director of the Historical Pageant in Philadelphia in 1908, gives an account of recent "Historical Pageants in England and America." Mr. Oberholtzer makes a plea for pageants on the ground of their distinct educational value and their awakening of neighborhood pride and spirit.

The "Fan" and His Ways.—Edward B. Moss, writing upon the "Fan," in the issue of Harper's Weekly for June 11th, says: "The American spectator seen at a sporting contest differs in every respect from his prototype of the Old World. He 'enthuses' to a degree that astonishes the staid Englishman and the phlegmatic German. Scenes occur every day at baseball games that are witnessed in no other contests or competitions. Business and professional men forget for the time their standing in the community and, shoulder to shoulder with the street urchin, 'root' frantically for the hit needed to win the game. Superstitious to a degree, the 'fan' will rise to his feet with all his fellows en masse for a stretch in the 'lucky seventh' if the home team is being outplayed, and so it goes."

The Conquest of Lockjaw.—The popular belief that a wound from treading on a rusty nail is very likely to cause tetanus is quite correct. This is not because it is a nail or is rusty, but because by lying on the ground it has become infected with the germs of lockjaw. Moreover, as the punctured wound caused by the nail bleeds but little and this blood dries up and excludes the air, the most favorable conditions for the development of tetanus exist, for, as Kitasato, the Japanese bacteriologist, proved, the absence of oxygen is most favorable to the growth of this germ. The germ itself looks very much like a tack. So virulent is it that its toxin in doses of 1-200,000th of a teaspoonful will kill a mouse. It has been found by experiment that the poison is carried up to the spinal cord, not by the absorbents or the blood-vessels, as are other poisons, but through the motor nerves themselves. Fortunately, an anti-poison or antidote has been developed, but so prompt is the action of the poison that in an animal, two minutes after the injection of a fatal dose of the poison, twice as much of the remedy is required as if it had been administered with the poison; after eight minutes ten times the amount, and after ninety minutes forty times the original amount is necessary. This antitoxin is entirely harmless. As a result of antiseptic methods lockjaw is now almost unknown except after neglected wounds, instead of being terribly frequent as it formerly was. When it is feared, the antitoxin is used as a preventive, and when it has developed, as a cure. In animals, for naturally horses suffer enormously more frequently than man, the same antitoxin is used. In 163 horses that had operations performed on them, but were protected by the antitoxin, not one developed tetanus, whereas of eight cases unprotected by the antitoxin, five developed tetanus. The result of all these experiments has been that

what is known as Fourth of July tetanus has been enormously diminished, chiefly by the antitoxin used as a preventive.—W. W. Keene, M. D., LL. D., in Harper's Magazine for July.

Inspector Byrne and the "Third Degree."—"The 'third degree,'" said the former chief of detectives, "should be a psychic rather than a physical process. It is not remorse brought about by continual thought upon the heinousness of his crime that drives a guilty man to confession; it is the nervous strain involved in a long effort to maintain his pretence of innocence, while his inconstant fear that the police are in possession of evidence that may prove his guilt. Something like a parallel case would be that of a prize-fighter who would surmise that his antagonist was playing with him in the ring while capable of sending in a knockout blow at any time he felt so inclined. Apprehension that he was dealing with conditions of the nature of which he was unaware would eventually weaken the man in that case. Tell a suspected man, who is guilty, that you have evidence of his guilt, and that he will get nothing to eat, or will not be permitted to sleep, until he confesses, and, unless he is a particularly stupid fellow, he will know that you have no proof against him and are only trying to get it. For instance, show him ostentatiously the weapon with which he may have killed a man, and tell him that you know all about the crime and he would better confess it; he will say to himself: 'They haven't got sufficient evidence to convict me, and are trying to make me furnish it; for if they had the evidence they wouldn't care whether I confessed or not,' and thus he will be encouraged to hold out. Also if he does confess under duress, he makes a false confession, which he knows it will be impossible to corroborate. Now, a guilty man, in ninety-nine cases out of one hundred, is not sure that he has covered every trace of his crime, and he may readily be put into the state of mind of the man in Poe's story of 'The Telltale Heart,' wherein he can't help believing that proof of his guilt has been discovered and that his cross-examiners are mocking him by pretending not to be aware of it. Let the guilty man catch sight of an implement with which his crime is associated in the possession of the police, which he believes has been unintentionally left where he sees it, and it throws him into a panic, because he does not know how they came by the weapon nor what else they may have discovered demonstrating his guilt in getting hold of it. Perhaps he has concocted a story in his mind which the discovery of this weapon render implausible, and he mentally puts together and rejects one sequence of lies after another, wondering whether it is safe to take chances on this bit of information or that being not in the possession of the police. Then he is overwhelmed every few moments by the thought that everything is known and all his efforts are useless. The guilty man in this condition is no longer normal, and his collapse is only a matter of time."—Frank Marshall White, in Harper's Weekly.

A Simplified Method of Determining the Gastric Acidity.—To Dietetic and Hygienic Gazette for June, 1909, Dr. C. E. Wood contributes a simplified method of determining gastric acidity, of his own devising, which, he says, gives almost as accurate results as the use of a burette and has many obvious advantages. The only apparatus required is a tall, narrow cylindrical glass graduate graduated to tenths of a cc,. and a finely drawn pipette. The tenth normal hydroxide solution is kept in a well stoppered bottle. The color reagents used are 1 per cent sol. phenolpthalein, .5 per cent sol. dimethyl-amido-azo-benzol, 1 per cent sol. aliazrin monosulphate. Acidity is expressed in terms of the number of cc. of filtrate required to neutralize 100 cc. of tenth normal sodium hydroxide solution. Five cc. of filtrate is placed in the graduate and a drop of phenolpthalein added, also a drop of dimethyl-ramido-azo-benzol solution added. Sodium hydroxide solution is then added drop by drop from the pipette and the amount read when the color reaction occurs. Lemon yellow indicates the absence of free acid. In the presence of free alkali phenolphthalein gives a red color. In the same way to 5 cc. of filtrate a drop of aliazrin sol. is added and sodium hydroxide solution drop by drop. A purple color results when free and loosely combined acid has been neutralized. The number of cc. of sodium hydroxide solution used is figured by deduction, allowing approximately one-tenth cc. in each case for the color reagent used. The acidity represents free acid, loosely combined acids and acid salts.

Suspicious Tuberculosis.—In making the diagnosis, the practitioner should suspect tuberculosis of the kidney in every case of cystitis, specially in young persons, which is not due to stone or stricture and which does not clear up under bladder washing.—Dr. Henry H. Morton.